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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07
/064 W
----------050875 022147Z /66
O R 022025Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1826
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 5221

FOR EUR/RPM, EUR/SOV

FROM USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE
SUBJECT: BELGRADE CSCE: AUGUST 2 MORNING SESSION

1. THE MORNING PLENARY AUGUST 2 RECESSED IMMEDIATELY SO THAT THE INFORMAL CONTACT GROUP COULD RECONVENE, AGREEING TO RETURN AT 12:45 SO THAT OTHER DELEGATIONS COULD BE INFORMED OF PROGRESS. FOLLOWING RECESS OF PLENARY US DEL FIRST CONVENED THE UK, NETHERLANDS AND FRANCE OF COORDINATE TACTICS FOR CONTACT GROUP DISCUSSION. ALL THREE DELS WERE MOST CONCERNED WITH THE FINAL SENTENCE OF POINT 13 (CLOSING DATE FOR THE MAIN MEETING) AND AGREED TO PURSUE THAT ISSUE FIRST IN THE CONTACT GROUP. CONTACT GROUP THEN MET UNDER BELGIAN CHARIMAN AND INCLUDING THE SAME PARTICIPANTS IT HAD ON AUGUST 1
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(BELGRADE 5195). TO OPEN THE MEETING ROMANIAN REP SUGGESTED ELIMINATING THE WORDS "IN PLENARY" FROM THE FIRST SENTENCE OF POINT 13, LEAVING IT AS "THE MEETING WILL OPEN ON 4 OCTOBER 1977 AT 11 AM," AND THIS CHANGE WAS AGREED.

2. DUTCH REP THEN SUGGESTED THAT CONTACT GROUP SHOULD FIRST

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CONSIDER FINAL SENTENCE OF POINT 13, BUT SOVIET AND GDR REPS CONTENDED VEHEMENTLY (AND ERRONEOUSLY) THAT THE GROUP HAD YESTERDAY AGREED ON THE VERSION:
"IN ANY CASE THE MEETING WILL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGENDA, END WITH THE ADOPTING OF ITS CONCLUDING DOCUMENT AND FIXING THE DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SIMILAR MEETING".
ALL OTHER DELS DISAGREED THAT THIS SENTENCE HAD BEEN AGREED, CITING VARIOUS EVIDENCE. SOVIET REP (VORONTSOV) WAS ADAMANT THAT THE SENTENCE WAS BEING REOPENED IN A "SNEAKY WAY" AND HE WOULD "LOOK LIKE A FOOL TO HIS GOVERNMENT" IF THE DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT WAS REOPENED IN CONTACT GROUP.
HE SAID HE COULD NOT HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE GROUP'S PROCEDURES AND MUST TAKE THE DISCUSSION BACK TO THE PLENARY. WESTERN EFFORTS CALMED THE ATMOSPHERE SUFFICIENTLY TO GET DISCUSSION STARTED ON THE SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH SENTENCES (SUB-MISSION OF REPORTS BY THE WORKING BODIES; CLOSING DATE FOR THE WORKING BODIES; SETTING UP DRAFTING GROUPS) WITHOUT RESOLVING THE "MISUNDERSTANDING" REGARDING THE FINAL SENTENCE.

3. AFTER A FEW DESULTORY WESTERN SUGGESTIONS, ROMANIAN REP OFFERED THE FOLLOWING FORMULATION TO REPLACE THE SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH SENTENCES: "BETWEEN THE 21ST OF NOVEMBER AND THE 9TH OF DECEMBER, THE PLENARY WILL RECEIVE FINAL REPORTS FROM THE SUBSIDIARY WORKING BODIES IN ORDER TO BE GIVEN ENOUGH TIME TO DRAFT THE CONCLUDING DOCU-
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MENT. HOWEVER, IF THE DRAFTING WORK IS NOT COMPLETED BY THE SUBSIDIARY WORKING BODIES, THE PLENARY WILL TAKE THE APPROPRIATE STEPS, INCLUDING THE CREATION OF THE DRAFTING GROUPS NECESSARY FOR THE PURPOSE". THIS FORMULA WAS IMMEDIATELY ACCEPTED BY THE SOVIET REP, WHO SAID THAT IT "SOLVED EVERYBODY'S PROBLEMS". AFTER SUITABLE DISCUSSION, A LONG CAUCUS OF NATO REPS PLUS IRELAND ENSUED. ALL DELEGA-TIONS, EXCEPT THE UK, AGREED THAT THEY COULD SEND THE FORMULATION HOME WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT IT WOULD BE ACCEPTED. FRENCH, NETHERLANDS, BELGIAN AND US REPS SAID THAT THEIR ACCEPTANCE WOULD BE CONTINGENT ON A SATISFACTORY FINAL SENTENCE IN POINT 13. THE UK, WILL REPORT THEIR ISOLATED SITUATION TO LONDON. COMMENT: THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE ROMANIAN PROPOSAL IS NOT CHANGED IN SUBSTANCE FROM THE SOVIET OFFER IN YESTERDAY'S CONTACT GROUP (BELGRADE 5195). THE SECOND SENTENCE CREATES A GREATER PRESUMPTION THAT THE PLENARY WILL CREATE APPROPRIATE DRAFTING GROUPS TO REPLACE WORKING

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BODIES WHICH HAVE NOT FINISHED THEIR WORK. IT ALSO
STRENGTHENS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PLENARY COULD
TAKE OTHER "APPROPRIATE STEPS" IN SUCH A SITUATION, FOR
EXAMPLE CONTINUING THE WORKING BODIES BY RENEWING OR RE-
CASTING THEIR MANDATE, OR CREATING NEW WORKING BODIES
FOR OTHER TASKS. CONSENSUS WOULD, OF COURSE, STILL BE RE-
QUIRED FOR ANY ACTION, BUT MOST DELEGATIONS BELIEVE THAT THE
AMBIGUITY INTRODUCED BY THIS ADDITIONAL SENTENCE CONSIDERABLY
WEAKENS THE CONCEPT OF A FIRM TERMINAL DATE FOR THE WORKING
BODIES. END COMMENT.

4. CONTACT GROUP RECONVENED FOLLOWING NATO CAUCUS WITH
SWISS REP INCLUDED SINCE HE HAD INFORMALLY EXPRESSED
STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE DECEMBER 9 DATE AS LONG AS
OCTOBER 4 WAS THE INDICATED OPENING DATE FOR THE FALL MEET-
ING. HE EXPRESSED HIS DELEGATION'S STRONG PREFERENCE FOR A
NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 16 SET OF DATES IN THE ROMANIAN FIRST
SENTENCE. THIS WAS NOTED BUT NOT DISCUSSED AT LENGTH SINCE
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IT IS TIED TO THE OPENING DATE WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE
DISCUSSED IN PLENARY. THE CONTACT GROUP THEN ADJOURNED TO
REPORT BACK TO THE PLENARY AFTER AGREEING THAT IT WOULD NOT
MEET AGAIN UNTIL TOMORROW SO THAT "PARTICIPANTS WOULD HAVE

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TIME TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS." IN REALITY, THE
WESTERN GROUP HAD DECIDED TO LET US US TRY TO RESOLVE THE
"MISUNDERSTANDING" OVER THE FINAL SENTENCE OF POINT 13 AT
ITS DINNER WITH THE SOVIETS ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 2
RATHER THAN REPEATING THIS MORNING'S SHARP DISCUSSION.

5. THE PLENARY WAS INFORMED INFORMALLY OF THE NEW SET
OF SENTENCES. IT AGREED TO MEET DURING THE AFTER-
NOON TO SETTLE THE ORDER OF SPEAKERS AT THE OPENING AND
CLOSING SESSIONS (POINT 10 AND 11 OF THE AGREED ORGANIZA-
TIONAL FRAMEWORK.)
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